

PART 3:

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK



INTRODUCTION

Baltimore County is the largest of the six Maryland jurisdictions comprising the Baltimore region, which includes Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties. Also included in this discussion is York County, Pennsylvania, located north of Baltimore County, which has become an important component of regional development patterns (Map 4).

Strategically located within the Baltimore region, Baltimore County is part of a dynamic regional economy. The geographic location of the Baltimore region, in the Boston to Richmond transportation corridor, provides many economic development opportunities that can be enhanced through greater regional cooperation.

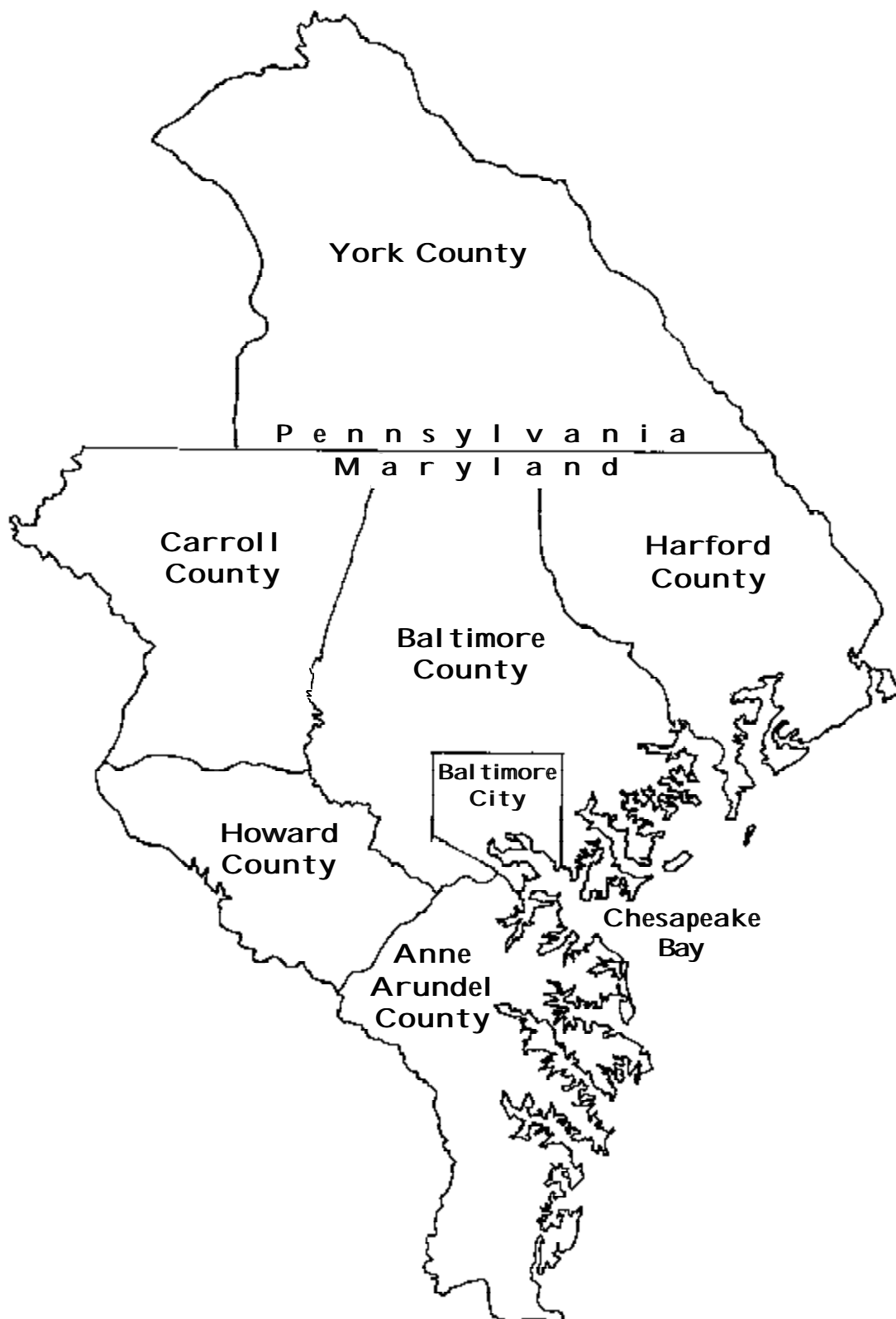
REGIONAL GROWTH PATTERNS AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Jurisdictions in the Baltimore region are confronted with challenges as well as opportunities. The continuous outward population migration from American cities to suburban areas that has been continuing nationwide since World War II has affected all counties in the region. In response to the growing demand for more government services and public infrastructure, which are difficult to provide cost-effectively in low density suburban development, some counties have adopted more restrictive zoning, growth management strategies, and master plans to control growth. Even with these controls, continued pressure to develop in rural areas is being experienced throughout the region.

Economic development opportunities can be enhanced through greater regional cooperation.

Listed below are brief summaries of growth patterns in the region.

- Baltimore County has an adopted growth management plan and a master plan that designates two growth areas (Owings Mills and Perry Hall-White Marsh), employment centers, the Towson Urban Area, and community conservation areas. Rural areas are designated outside the urban rural demarcation line, including a large area in the northern part of the county and smaller areas to the east and west.



Map 4
The Baltimore Region and
York County, Pennsylvania

- Howard County has designated Columbia-Ellicott City, ElkrIDGE, and North Laurel as its growth areas; areas outside the growth areas are rural.
- Harford County has designated the Interstate 95 and Route 24 corridors as its growth areas. Employment and residential growth is encouraged in these areas, which includes the City of Belair. Areas located outside these growth corridors are rural.
- Carroll County has designated nine areas in which it will develop small area plans including the city of Westminster, the towns of Hampstead and Manchester, the Finksburg Community Planning Area along the Route 140 corridor, and the Freedom Planning Area adjacent to the Liberty Reservoir. Areas located outside these plan areas are rural.
- Anne Arundel County has provided areas of growth at Glen Burnie, Odenton, and Annapolis. The southern part of the county is planned to remain rural in character.
- Baltimore City is entirely urban.
- In York County, the patterns of development are controlled by individual townships and boroughs, rather than the county government. The southern area adjacent to Baltimore County has been designated as rural, except for the boroughs of New Freedom, Railroad, Shrewsbury, and Stewartstown, which have been included in an interim growth boundary as part of the York County Comprehensive Plan.



DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL APPROACH

Each jurisdiction located within the Baltimore region should understand how its individual decisions impact other jurisdictions. Decision-making that focuses on promoting regional as well as local interests provides the best strategy for ensuring the continued viability of each jurisdiction in the future. Regardless of its division by jurisdictional boundaries, the Baltimore region functions as a single economically and socially integrated territory. Many communities cross jurisdictional boundaries, and can benefit from coordinating community and economic development plans. Examples of regional cooperation include the recreation councils and athletic competition, and the public safety agencies, which are coordinating their efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and exploring ways to improve communication and cooperation.

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POLICY

Baltimore County will take a lead role in promoting the philosophy that individual jurisdictions can only be fully successful by acknowledging their mutual responsibilities and working together to strengthen the entire region. The following policies, issues, and actions are informational statements which may provide guidance for the County Council when it acts to establish land use policy.

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Baltimore County should participate in supporting or promoting the actions discussed here. Actions that will generally benefit the regional jurisdictions are listed, as well as more specific actions in which the county can work with individual jurisdictions on common issues. Regionalism depends upon a complex interaction among elected officials, government agencies, and the public.

Issue: Regional Cooperation

Similar to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement (signed by the governors of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the mayor of the District of Columbia) and the Baltimore Region's Watershed Management Agreement, the region's local governments should develop a cooperative effort to address growth-related issues in a proactive manner. Such an approach would encourage local jurisdictions to manage development in a manner sensitive to the common good of the jurisdiction and the region.



Coordination among neighboring jurisdictions could alleviate land use conflicts.

In addition to coordinating land use and development decisions, the region's local governments should continue to develop cooperative relationships to make the delivery of government services more efficient and more effective, and to support regional institutions.

General Actions

1. Coordinate draft plans for areas adjacent to common jurisdictional boundaries and jointly implement actions of common interest.
2. Target new growth opportunities within the designated priority funding areas where infrastructure has the capacity to handle more growth, thereby discouraging growth in rural areas.
3. Ensure that rural areas have appropriate zoning. Preserve areas of unique resources; do not allow expansion of rural residential areas.

4. Provide open space for various recreational opportunities that require shared financial and physical resources.
5. Continue to support regional economic development initiatives to market the Baltimore region nationally and internationally.
6. Identify methods to upgrade the Port of Baltimore, which may include uniform, multi-jurisdictional zoning for the port facilities to streamline redevelopment.
7. Establish regional priorities for transportation and transit projects and improvements.
8. Ensure fair treatment of the Baltimore region in Maryland's implementation of new EPA air and water quality requirements.
9. Strengthen coordination among public safety agencies.
10. Support educational initiatives that ensure uniformly high levels of educational services across jurisdictional boundaries.
11. Continue to support regional cultural facilities in Baltimore City such as the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Walters Art Gallery, Center Stage, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, as instrumental components for maintaining the vibrancy of the urban environment and the Baltimore region.
12. Explore creating a regional database that provides information on workforce development, social service resources, zoning, development processing, permitting, and land availability.
13. Expand joint purchasing efforts among jurisdictions to maximize cost savings for government purchases of goods and services.
14. Coordinate public health and social service programs between jurisdictions.
15. Work cooperatively with other county and state agencies and neighboring jurisdictions in mutually beneficial recreation and park-related efforts.
16. Support regional workforce development initiatives and public-private partnerships to improve the regional workforce.



Uniform multi-jurisdictional zoning for the port facilities may help to streamline redevelopment.

Joint Actions Between Baltimore County and Neighboring Jurisdictions

Baltimore City

1. Explore regional approaches to solid waste processing and disposal.
2. Continue to cooperate on interjurisdictional watershed management through the Upper Western Shore, Patapsco, and Back River Tributary Strategy Groups, and cooperate to resolve land management issues in the watershed areas.



3. Develop uniform criteria for the revitalization and upgrading of commercial corridors. Develop a joint commercial corridor advisory group to coordinate improvement programs and expenditures.
4. Investigate using a community planning effort designed to introduce community association leaders to one another where association boundaries abut the city/county line. Shared quarterly meetings may be instrumental in developing common goals and programs.
5. Continue to develop joint community plans to be adopted by each jurisdiction.
6. Maintain Baltimore City's role as the cultural/entertainment center of the region.

Anne Arundel County

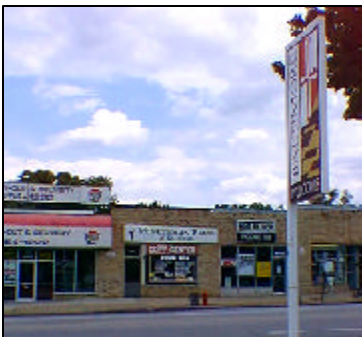
1. Jointly support the BWI Partnership, which promotes the economic development of the subregion surrounding BWI Airport (southwest Baltimore County, northeast Howard County, and northern Anne Arundel County).
2. Coordinate Glen Burnie's community conservation and revitalization strategies and Baltimore County's Southwest Area Strategy.

Carroll County

1. Maximize efforts to upgrade and protect Piney Run through cooperative efforts and agreements with the Maryland Department of the Environment, Carroll County, and the town of Hampstead.
2. Recognizing that Hampstead and Manchester are historic incorporated municipalities that have been planned for growth since the early 1960's, develop agreements and programs to ensure that new development outside the Hampstead and Manchester planning areas is compatible with Baltimore County's rural preservation efforts.
3. Explore commuter options to relieve traffic throughout the Hanover Pike corridor.

Harford County

1. Continue to join in Harford County's effort to support the operation of Aberdeen Proving Grounds. This effort includes the provision of public services directly to the base, coordination with base officials for continued outsourcing of procurement of goods and services from local businesses, and environmental protection and improvements to the extensive waterfront shared with the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



A joint commercial corridor advisory group is proposed to coordinate improvement programs and expenditures.

2. Continue to cooperate in the management of the Deer Creek and Little Gunpowder watersheds through participation in the Upper Western Shore Tributary Strategy Group and the Mason-Dixon Task Force.
3. Develop programs to preserve large contiguous areas of farmland that cross jurisdictional boundaries and retain businesses that support the agricultural industry. Such programs might include joint agriculture preservation agreements, uniform zoning densities, or joint participation in the Rural Legacy Program.
4. Contain the rural-residential development pattern in the Jacksonville area of Baltimore County and the Fallston area of Harford County, possibly through a joint agriculture preservation agreement.



Howard County

1. Support Route 29 terminating at I-70.
2. Continue cooperative planning on watershed management and reservoir protection through participation in the Patapsco Tributary Strategy Group.
3. Coordinate Baltimore County's Southwest Revitalization Strategy and the *Patapsco/Granite Area Community Plan* with Howard County plans.

York County

1. Develop programs to preserve large contiguous areas of farmland that cross jurisdictional boundaries and retain businesses that support the agricultural industry.
2. Explore common watershed resource issues through participation in the Mason-Dixon Task Force. Continue cooperative planning on watershed management and reservoir protection through participation in the Gunpowder River Watershed Study.